

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18, and 20 are pending in this application. By this amendment claims 1, 7, and 15 have been amended and new claims 21-25 have been added. A prompt and favorable action on the merits is requested.

**Receipt of the IDS**

On page 2, lines 5-6, the Examiner questions why the IDS was filed. In particular the Examiner states:

It is unclear why applicant has filed a third IDS listing these references. Clarification is required.

The Applicant filed the subject IDS due to the Examiner's statement set forth in the Advisory Action dated 10/25/00 (i.e. paper 18). In particular, the aforementioned Examiner's statement reads as follows:

The IDS was not considered since no petition or petition fee was received.

Applicant apologizes for any confusion the submitting of the IDS may have caused.

**35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20**

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. As indicated above independent claims 1, 7 and 15 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Support for the aforementioned amendments can be found, for example, in FIG. 13 of the subject patent application. Accordingly, each of claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-18 and 20 is believed to be in proper form for allowance.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 3, 2001

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the claims:

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Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

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1. (three times amended) A method of verifying proper coupling of an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an operator who is located in a cab of a work machine, with (i) the work machine including the implement assembly and the lift arm assembly, (ii) the implement assembly including a hinge plate, (iii) the hinge plate having a first coupling aperture extending therethrough, (iv) the lift arm assembly having a lift arm and a cylinder, and (v) the cylinder being secured to the lift arm, comprising the steps of:

providing an implement coupler having (i) a first outside support plate, (ii) a second outside support plate spaced apart from the first outside support plate, (iii) a first inside support plate interposed the first and second outside support plates, (iv) a second inside support plate spaced apart from the first inside support plate and interposed the first and second outside support plates, (v) a center box section interposed the first and second inside support plates, the center box section having a void defined therein which is configured to receive an implement pin, and (vi) a rear box section interposed and secured to the first and second outside support plates, the rear box section having [a rectangular shape] (i) a length which extends from the first outside support plate to the second outside support plate and (ii) a width which extends from an upper most edge of the rear box section to a lower most edge of the rear box section, said length being greater than said width;

positioning the cylinder within the rear box section;

advancing a hydraulic fluid into the cylinder so as to move a pin from a first pin position to a second pin position, wherein (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the first pin position, and (ii) the pin extends through the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second pin position; and

viewing the pin when the pin is located in the second pin position by the operator from a position within the cab whereby proper coupling of the implement assembly to the lift arm assembly is verified by the operator without having to exit the cab.

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (three times amended) A method of verifying proper coupling of an implement assembly to a lift arm assembly by an operator who is located in a cab of a work machine, with (i) the work machine including the implement assembly and the lift arm assembly, and (ii) the implement assembly having a first coupling aperture, comprising the steps of:

providing an implement coupler having (i) a first outside support plate, (ii) a second outside support plate spaced apart from the first outside support plate, (iii) a first inside support plate interposed the first and second outside support plates, (iv) a second inside support plate spaced apart from the first inside support plate and interposed the first and second outside support plates, (v) a center box section interposed the first and second inside support plates, the center box section having a void defined therein which is configured to receive an implement pin, and (vi) a rear box section interposed and secured to the first and second outside support plates, the rear box section having [a rectangular shape] (i) a length which extends from the first outside support plate to the second outside support plate and (ii) a width which extends from an upper most edge of the rear box section to a lower most edge of the rear box section, said length being greater than said width;

positioning a cylinder within the rear box section; advancing a hydraulic fluid into the cylinder so as to move a pin from a first pin position to a second pin position, wherein (i) the pin is spaced apart from the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the first pin position, and (ii) the pin is positioned within the first coupling aperture when the pin is located in the second pin position; and

viewing the pin when the pin is located in the second pin position by the operator from a position within the cab whereby proper coupling of the implement assembly to the lift arm assembly is verified by the operator without having to exit the cab.

Claim 15 has been amended as follows:

15. (three times amended) A work machine, comprising:  
a cab in which an operator may be located;  
an implement assembly having an implement and a hinge  
plate secured thereto, wherein said hinge plate has a first  
coupling aperture extending therethrough;  
a lift arm assembly having a lift arm;  
an implement coupler interposed and secured to said  
lift arm assembly and said implement assembly, said  
implement coupler having (i) a first outside support plate,  
(ii) a second outside support plate spaced apart from said  
first outside support plate, (iii) a first inside support  
plate interposed said first and second outside support  
plates, (iv) a second inside support plate spaced apart from  
said first inside support plate and interposed said first  
and second outside support plates, (v) a center box section  
interposed said first and second inside support plates, said  
center box section having a void defined therein which is  
configured to receive an implement pin, and (vi) a rear box  
section interposed and secured to said first and second  
outside support plates, said rear box section having [a  
rectangular shape] (i) a length which extends from the first  
outside support plate to the second outside support plate  
and (ii) a width which extends from an upper most edge of  
the rear box section to a lower most edge of the rear box  
section, said length being greater than said width; and  
a cylinder positioned within said rear box section,  
wherein (i) said cylinder is operable to move a pin  
between a first pin position and a second pin position in  
response to advancement of a hydraulic fluid within said  
cylinder, (ii) said pin is spaced apart from said coupling  
aperture when said pin is located in said first pin  
position, (iii) said pin extends through said coupling

aperture when said pin is located in said second pin position, (iv) said pin is positioned within a field of vision of said operator when (A) said pin is located in said second pin position, and (B) said operator is located within said cab.

Claims 21-25 are new claims.